National Counter Terrorism Centre

1239. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is proposing to set up a National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) to beef up the internal security system of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details regarding when will NCTC be functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Government of India is proposing to establish a focused institutionalized mechanism in the form of a National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), with the aim of taking pro-active counter terrorism measures complementing with other concerned agencies.

Custodial deaths and gang rape in police station

†1240. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sharp increase in cases of custodial deaths and gang rapes in police stations during the recent past;

(b) if so, the main reasons behind these cases and whether any information has been obtained in this regard; and

(c) whether Central Government has issued any firm guidelines to the State Governments to control them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) As per information provided by National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB), the total number of Custodial Deaths in police stations and Custodial rapes reported in the Country, during the period from 2005 to 2007 are given as under:

Year	Custodial death	Custodial rape
2005	128	7
2006	89	2
2007	118	1

The data regarding reasons behind these cases is not compiled and maintained, centrally.

(c) 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution and as such registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments including cases relating to gang rapes. However, Government of India has been issuing guidelines from time to time to make concerted efforts to improve the administration of Criminal Justice System and to take effective measures to control crime against vulnerable sections including women.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Moreover, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), has also issued guidelines to the State Governments/Union Territory authorities which are under obligation to report every death whether in police custody or in judicial custody within 24 hours of its occurrence irrespective of the cause of death of the deceased.

Section 176 of Cr. P. C. has also been amended to provide that in case of death or disappearance of a person or rape of a woman while in the custody of the police, there shall be mandatory judicial inquiry and in case of death, examination of the dead body shall be conducted within 24 hours of death *vide* Cr. P. C. (Amendment) Act, 2005.

Security arrangements to safeguard lives of people

1241. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what cognizance Government has taken of the threat to the National security in the light of recent bomb blasts in various cities of Pakistan killing several people by Taliban; and

(b) what special security arrangement Government has taken to safeguard the lives of the people of Metropolitan cities and border areas of our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Intelligence and Security Agencies of the Government examine and analyse the pattern of terrorist violence that occur at different intervals. The Government has been, on a continuing basis, reviewing the security arrangements in the light of emerging challenges, including terrorism, and a number of important decisions and measures have been taken. These measures include augmenting the strength of Central Para-Military Forces; amendment of the CISF Act to enable deployment of CISF in joint venture or private industrial undertakings; establishment of NSG hubs at Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Mumbai; empowerment of DG, NSG to requisition aircraft for movement of NSG personnel in the event of any emergency; strengthening and re-organising of Multi-Agency Centre to enable it to function on 24X7 basis for real time collation and sharing of intelligence with other intelligence and security agencies; and development of online and secure connectivity between Multi-Agency Centre, Subsidiary Multi-Agency Centres and State Special Branches. Further initiatives of the Government include tighter immigration control, effective border management through border fencing, flood lighting, deployment of surveillance equipment, coastal security scheme, dedicated initiative for mega city policing, desert policing, and further The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 has been amended and notified in 2008 to strengthen the punitive measures to combat terrorism. The National Investigation Agency has been constituted under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 to investigate and prosecute offences under the Acts in the Schedule.